

WO-441
Mary J. Darnes House
Snow Hill
Private

c. 1850

Historically known as the Mary J. Darnes house, this two-story, two-bay frame dwelling is one of the oldest dwellings to remain standing in Snow Hill's black community formerly known as "Freetown." Located at the western end of Market Street, the community consists of a few dozen houses facing West Market Street, Dighton Avenue, and a number of side streets. Estimated to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century, the Darnes house, commonly referred to as the Adaline Brown house, displays nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor, and a medium pitched roof finished with boxed cornices and flush gable ends.

A chain of title for this property takes the land back to Mary J. Darnes, who owned this piece of land "next to the Colored School House Lot" between 1898 and 1909. Earlier deeds to the property have not been located.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: MARY J. DARNES HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: ~~WO-442~~ WO-441

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL
TRANSITION 1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):
House/Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WO-441

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MARY J. DARNES HOUSE

and/or common ADALINE BROWN HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 407 Dighton Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Adaline Brown

street & number 407 Dighton Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 596

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 490

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-441

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Currently known as the Adaline Brown house, located at 407 Dighton Avenue, the two-story, two-bay by two-bay frame house faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to date to around 1850-60, this two-story, two-room plan frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with asbestos shingles. Covering the medium pitched roof is a layer of asphalt shingles. Attached the the front of the house is a two-story shed roofed section enclosed on the second floor and open on the first. To the rear is a shed roofed kitchen.

The two-bay by two-bay rectangular frame dwelling, following a room-behind-room plan, features nine-over-six sash windows that light the first floor and six-over-six sash windows that illuminate the second floor. The roof is finished with flush gable ends, and the eaves are trimmed with boxed cornices and plain bargeboards.

The interior of the house has been partially remodeled with sheet paneling in the front room. The back room retains a late nineteenth century mantel, and a turned newel post is fixed to the corner stair. Chair rail is buried under the wall paper.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-441

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically known as the Mary J. Darnes house, this two-story, two-bay frame dwelling is one of the oldest dwellings to remain standing in Snow Hill's black community formerly known as "Freetown." Located at the western end of Market Street, the community consists of a few dozen houses facing West Market Street, Dighton Avenue, and a number of side streets. Estimated to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century, the Darnes house, commonly referred to as the Adaline Brown house, displays nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor, and a medium pitched roof finished with boxed cornices and flush gable ends.

A chain of title for this property takes the land back to Mary J. Darnes, who owned this piece of land "next to the Colored School House Lot" between 1898 and 1909. Earlier deeds to the property have not been located.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-441

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting NorthingC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 2/10/93

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCP
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021
(410) 514-7600

WO-441
ADALINE BROWN HOUSE
Snow Hill
Chain of title

FWH 596/490 Adaline A. Brown
to

9/22/1977 Stanley Barnhill

CWN 52/408 Harry P. Rowley
to

8/23/1952 Adaline A. Brown
Doris B. Harmon (who died 10/24/1974)

JEB 9/477 Laura I. Purnell
to

8/1/1941 Harry P. Rowley

BB 17/4-6 Burnod Bishop, et al.
to

11/2/1932 Laura I. Purnell

ODC 31/520 Frank Fassett, Mary Fassett
to

11/5/1918 Harvey J. Wise
Lola J. Wise
it being part of the lot conveyed to the said
Charlotte Stevenson

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ADALINE BROWN HOUSE

Snow Hill

Chain of title continued

ODC 28/150

Horace Payne

to

10/8/1917

Charlotte Stevenson

ODC 4/332

T. Spence Smith, Collector of State & County
Taxes

to

6/15/1909

Horace Payne

former property of Mary J. Darnes, colored
\$32.50

FHP 11/3

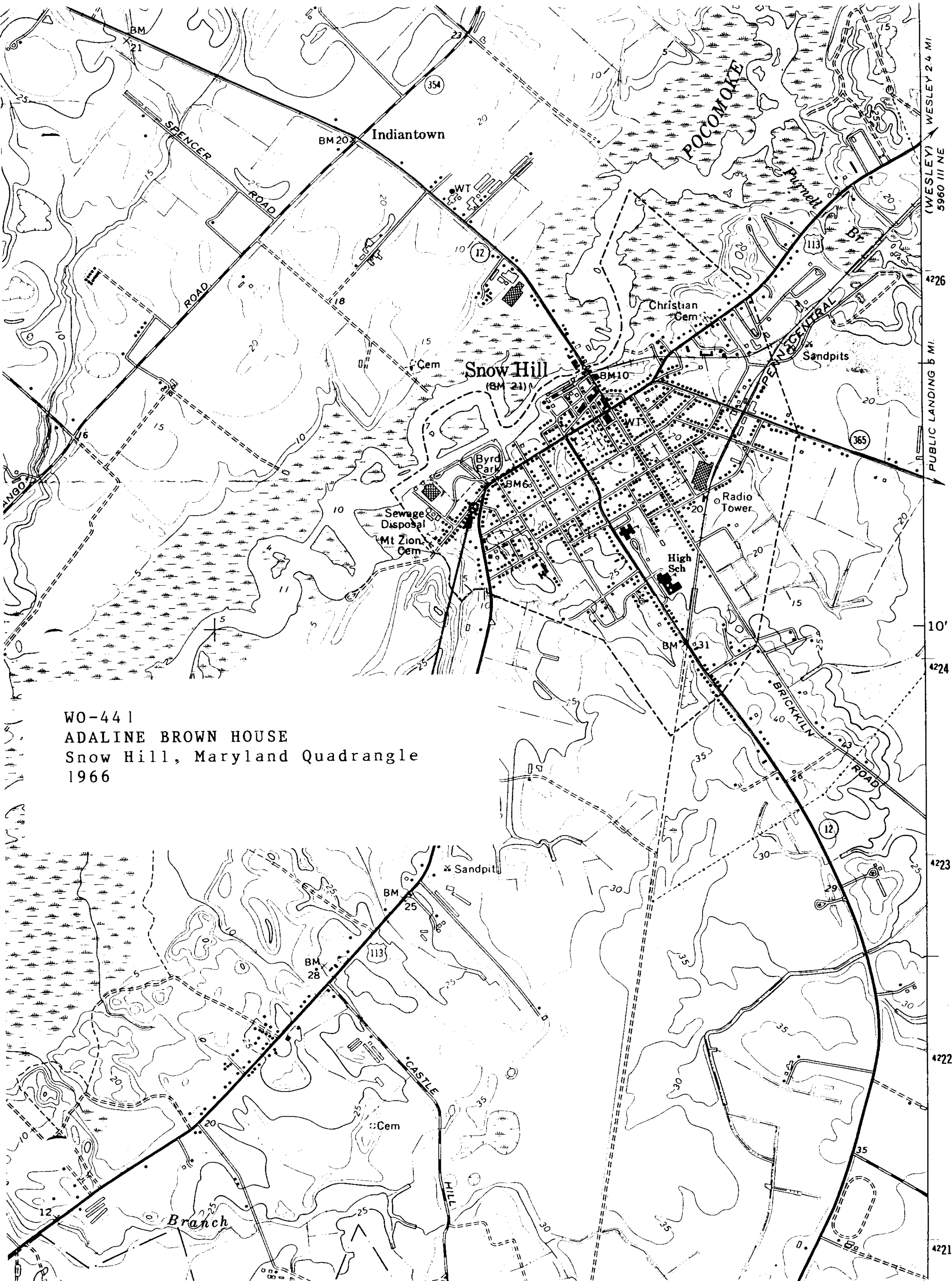
Oliver D. Collins and Sue M. Collins

to

5/27/1898

Mary J. Darnes

\$60.00 property adjoining to the "Colored
School House Lot"



WO-441
ADALINE BROWN HOUSE
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle
1966